

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 L-03 AF-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 CG-00 OFA-01

DLOS-04 TAR-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /092 W

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R 201306Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3564

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

COPENHAGEN 106

HELSINKI 37

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT OECD

SUBJECT: HOST GOVERNMENT REACTION TO MARITIME RATE-CUTTING
PRACTICES

REF: STATE 244923

1. ECON OFF DISCUSSED QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTEL ON
OCTOBER 17 WITH CHRISTOPH HINZ, HEAD OF POLICY SECTION
OF SEA TRANSPORT DIVISION, FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY
(BUNDESVERKEHRSMINISTERIUM, SEEVERKEHR ABTEILUNG). HINZ
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WAS WELL FAMILIAR WITH SUBJECT, WHICH HAS BEEN RAISED WITH

HIS MINISTRY NOT ONLY BY SHIPPERS BUT BY OTHER CARRIERS AS WELL. AS FAR AS GERMANY IS CONCERNED, HINZ SEES RATE CUTTING PRINCIPALLY AS A PROBLEM INVOLVING THE SOVIETS AND, TO BE VERY SMALL DEGREE, OTHER EAST BLOC COUNTRIES, BUT NOT OTHERS.

2. HINZ REPORTS THE FRG HAS WELL-DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE OF RATE CUTTING WITH RESPECT TO THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILROAD. THE SHIPPING LINES, THOUGH EXTREMELY VOCIFEROUS IN THEIR COMPLAINTS, HVE NOT YET PROVIDED DOCUMENTARY PROOF ADEQUATE TO TAKE OFFICIAL ACTIONS AGAINST THE SOVIETS. THESE ACTIONS WOULD INVOLVE: FIRST, INFORM DISCUSSIONS WITH APPROPRIATE SOVIET OFFICIALS; THEN, OFFICIAL PROTESTS THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS; AND FINALLY, IF NOT RESULTS WERE FORTHCOMING, THE IMPOSITION OF AN FRG PRE-CLEARANCE BEFORE ANY GERMAN COMPANY COULD SHIP ON SOVIET SHIPS.

3. HINZ SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS FOLLOWING THIS SUBJECT CAREFULLY AND WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHETHER THE U.S. WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS IT IN THE OECD. PARENTHETICALLY, HINZ SAID THAT THE FRG, WHILE HAVING NO "OFFICIAL " POSITION ON THE INOUYE BILL (S. 868 AND HR 7940), NONETHELESS WELCOMES CONGRESSIONAL EXAMINATION OF THE PROBLEM AND CERTAINLY DOES NOT OPPOSE THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION ITSELF. THE FRG ITSELF IS NOT CURRENTLY CONTEMPLATING ANY LEGISLATION TO MEET THE PROBLEM, BUT MIGHT CONSIDER IT IF THE SVERITY OF THE PROBLEM CAN BE DOCUMENTED AND IF OTHER REMEDIES PROVE INEFFECTIVE.

4. WE HAVE NOT CONTACTED ANY GERMANY SHIPPING LINES BECAUSE THEIR POSITION ON THIS IS WELL KNOWN TO US, BOTH FROM STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES GIVEN BY INDUSTRY OFFICIALS AND FROM VARIOUS DISCUSSIONS, MOST RECENTLY DURING THE VISIT TO HAMBURG OF CONGRESSWOMEN LEONOR K. SULLIVAN IN AUGUST 1975. THE INDUSTRY, UNDER THE GENERAL LEADERSHIP OF HAPAG-LLOYD, IS EXTREMELY WORRIED ABOUT SOVIET RATING CUTTING AND USES EVERY POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERSCORE ITS CONCERN IN PUBLIC. BROGAN

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To: STATE
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